

we want a strong economy and a business environment that encourages this entrepreneurial spirit, the federal government needs to give small business the economic tools to be successful. That tool is the 7(a) program that was created to provide capital to small business owners unable to access traditional financing. Through this program, more capital has been made available for small business investment that has helped grow the economy. Companies who participate in the 7(a) program account for approximately 75 percent of the net new jobs added to the economy! Funding the 7(a) program at \$79 million is an investment in Main Street, USA.

The Microloan Program is another excellent SBA program that creates jobs on Main Street. This program provides loans to low- and moderate-income entrepreneurs that are not served by private sector banks or the 7(a) loan program. One example of the benefits of the SBA Microloan program is the California Coastal Rural Development Corporation (Cal Coastal) in my district, which has made microloans totaling \$2,775,000 since 1998. With the loan and technical assistance financing provided by the SBA Microloan Program, Cal Coastal has financed more than 153 businesses with an average loan of \$18,000. Cal Coastal is just one example of the excellent work being done by non-profit intermediaries throughout our state and across the country. Fully funding the SBA Microloan program is a smart business investment for Main Street.

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#### DR-CAFTA

### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2005*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, June 15, 2005, I issued the following statement during a press conference on how the Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA) will be harmful to minorities and would like to submit it for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Today I am here to join my colleagues to reject the current text of DR-CAFTA and insist on the renegotiation of DR-CAFTA. Many sectors of society in some form or another will be negatively impacted by DR-CAFTA, but today I'd like to highlight how DR-CAFTA will be harmful to unions, and especially minority unionists. We have seen the detrimental effects of the NAFTA-model on unions. After NAFTA's signing, the rate of union-busting factory owners following through on threats to close plants tripled. Union busting will only increase with DR-CAFTA, which will affect all unionists, but particularly minorities, who are more likely to be in unions than the population at large. Minority communities have lower median wages and higher unemployment rates, and the benefits of union membership are greater than for non-minority workers. Unionized African-American, Asian-American and Latino workers all make substantially higher wages than their non-union counterparts. Furthermore, the difference in wages between union and non-union workers is much greater for minorities than for average union workers. For example, while average union workers make 28 percent more than their non-union counterparts, unionized Latino workers, for example, make 59 percent more than their nonunion counterparts.

Unions have played a significant role in making America a more just and equitable place for all. They helped to establish the middle class, making the "American dream" a reality for many workers and their families. Before the successes of the civil rights movement were marked by law, unions helped to provide freedom from discrimination in the workplace for minority workers and to integrate minority populations into the greater population. Sadly, trade agreements following the NAFTA model will weaken unions, and the benefits of unions guaranteed to minority workers.

When DR-CAFTA comes before Congress for a vote, I will urge my colleagues to oppose this unfair agreement, and send it back for renegotiation. Trade between nations does not and should not have to lead to such negative consequences.

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#### SALUTING SERVICE ACADEMY STUDENTS

### HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2005*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is a tremendous honor to salute our soldiers of tomorrow—the service academy bound students of the Third District of the Texas. This district of Texas is home to some of the best and the brightest young people.

I'm truly confident that they are ready to join the premier military force of the world. It is a privilege to send such fine young people on to our Nation's prestigious service academies.

We lift them and their families up in prayer for their future service and sacrifices. I am so very proud of them.

God bless them and God bless America. I salute them.

The appointees and their hometowns follow.

#### THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT SERVICE ACADEMY APPOINTMENTS

United States Military Academy—Morgan Peterson—Plano, Texas—Plano Senior High School; Jessica Shurtz—Parker, Texas—Plano East Senior High School; Chris Villarreal—Allen, Texas—Allen High School.

United States Naval Academy—Douglas McDonald—Plano, Texas—Plano East Senior High School; Andrew Treat—Dallas, Texas—Trinity Christian Academy.

United States Air Force Academy—Mitchell Himes—Lucas, Texas—Allen High School; Benaiah Lozano—Garland, Texas—Garland High School; John Schrader—Murphy, Texas—Plano East Senior High School; Mitchell Woods—Lucas, Texas—Allen High School.

United States Merchant Marine Academy—Donald Finnie—Wylie, Texas—Wylie High School.

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#### A TRIBUTE TO JAMES T. CONOLLY

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2005*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a Brooklynite and distinguished public servant, James T. Conolly. It is an honor to represent Mr. Conolly in the House of Representatives and it behooves us to pay tribute to such an outstanding leader.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Conolly obtained his bachelor's degree at the City University of New York. He subsequently pursued a career in public service, where he dedicated several years to assisting and leading others.

Mr. Conolly has demonstrated exemplary leadership and devotion to the community as the Executive Director of Alternative Sentencing in the Office of the Brooklyn District Attorney and Director of the Work Experience Program for the New York City Human Resources Administration under Mayor Giuliani. In conjunction with the late honorable Shirley Chisholm, he co-founded the Mid-Brooklyn Civic Association. In addition, Mr. Conolly was the first black man to be elected as District leader in the 42nd Assembly District, which included the Flatbush area of Brooklyn. He is continuing his ongoing commitment to the Brooklyn community through his activity as Deputy Commissioner for the New York City Human Resources Administration.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent upon this body to recognize the achievements and selfless service of Mr. Conolly as he continues to offer his talents and philanthropic services for the betterment of the community.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. James T. Conolly has continuously demonstrated his altruistic dedication to the community that makes him more than worthy of our recognition today.

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#### IN HONOR OF MR. VICTOR GHIO

### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2005*

Mr. FARR. I rise today to honor the life of Victor Ghio, an influential member of the Santa Cruz community. He passed away on March 31, 2005 at age 88 and is survived by his brother, Johnnie M. Ghio; his sisters, Victoria Gemignani, Mary Marsalis, and Gloria Della Mora; and numerous nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews. Mr. Ghio is most notable as a local legend and a vital link to the city's storied Italian fishing colony.

Mr. Ghio was born on August 20, 1916 in Santa Cruz, California. Following the footsteps of his grandfather and father, Mr. Ghio learned to fish around the age of 8. Shortly after graduating from high school, he went into the family business. However, when World War II broke out, he enlisted, and spent a decade in the service. Mr. Ghio earned the prestigious award of a Purple Heart for his assistance in the war effort.

Mr. Ghio spent more than 60 seasons fishing the Monterey Bay area on his 30-foot boat, Catherina G., named after his beloved mother. Just shortly before his death, Mr. Ghio was still buying fishing equipment to get ready for the season's commercial salmon season. The ocean was evidently his world in which he could live as a free spirit, away from the bustle of the city.

Mr. Speaker, I am joined by Mr. Ghio's family and friends in honoring his life and contributions to the community. He will be remembered by his positive spirit and a wonderful outlook on life. Mr. Ghio's service will be truly missed.